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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US99/15491 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 9 July 1999 (09.07.99)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 9815525.2 17 July 1998 (17.07.98) GB 9818706.5 28 August 1998 (28.08.98) GB  <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US).  <b>(72) Inventor; and</b> <b>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only):</b> BENNIE, Brenda, Frances [GB/GB]; 34A Delamere Crescent, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 9FS (GB).  <b>(74) Agents:</b> REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> DETERGENT TABLET		
<b>(57) Abstract</b>  A multi-phase detergent tablet for use in a washing machine, the tablet comprising: a first phase comprising alkalising agent, and a second phase comprising acidifying agent, and wherein the multi-phase tablet has an initial pH of at least 9, preferably at least 9.5 and a pH rate change index ( $\Delta$ pH) of no more than about 0.15 units/min. Preferred are multi-phase detergent tablets wherein the alkalising agent is a silicate or mixture of silicates, especially a sodium silicate of the crystalline layered variety; while the acidifying agent is part of a (bi)carbonate/acid effervescent couple which acts as disrupting agent for the tablet. The multi-phase detergent tablets have improved pH control, cleaning and enzyme performance together with excellent product strength, integrity and dissolution characteristics.		

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